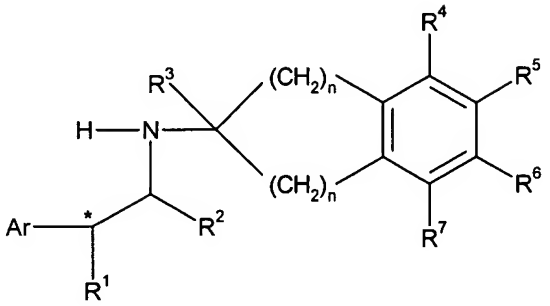
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-16.(Cancelled).

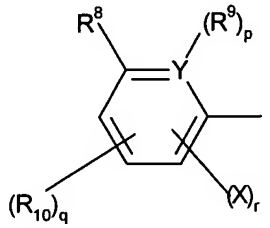
17.(Previously presented) A compound of formula



I

in free or salt or solvate form, where

Ar is a group of formula



II

R^1 is hydrogen, hydroxy, or alkoxy;

R^2 and R^3 are each independently hydrogen or alkyl;

R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each independently hydrogen, halogen, cyano, hydroxy, alkoxy, aryl, alkyl, alkyl substituted by one or more halogen atoms or one or more hydroxy or alkoxy groups, interrupted C_2 to C_{10} alkyl in which one or more pairs of carbon atoms are linked by -O-, -NR-, -S-, -S(=O)- or -SO_2-, where R is hydrogen or C_1 to C_{10} alkyl, alkenyl, trialkylsilyl, carboxy, alkoxycarbonyl, or -$CONR^{11}R^{12}$, where R^{11} and R^{12} are each independently hydrogen or alkyl, or R^4 and R^5, R^5 and R^6, or R^6 and R^7 together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached denote a carbocyclic or a 5- or 6-membered O-heterocyclic ring containing one or two oxygen atoms;

R^8 is halogen, -OR^{13}, -CH_2OR^{13} or -NHR^{13} where R^{13} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, -COR^{14}, where R^{14} is hydrogen, -$N(R^{15})R^{16}$, alkyl or alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, or aryl and R^{15} and R^{16} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl or alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, or R^{13} is -$C(=NH)R^{17}$, -SOR^{17} or -SO_2R^{17} where

R^{17} is alkyl or alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, and R^9 is hydrogen, or R^8 is -NHR^{18} where -NHR^{18} and R^9, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, denote a 5- or 6-membered heterocycle;

R^{10} is -OR^{19} or -NHR^{19} where R^{19} is hydrogen, alkyl, alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, or -COR^{20}, where R^{20} is -$N(R^{21})R^{22}$, alkyl or alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms, or aryl, and R^{21} and R^{22} are each independently hydrogen, alkyl or alkyl interrupted by one or more hetero atoms;

X is halogen or halomethyl or alkyl;

Y is carbon or nitrogen;

n is 1 or 2;

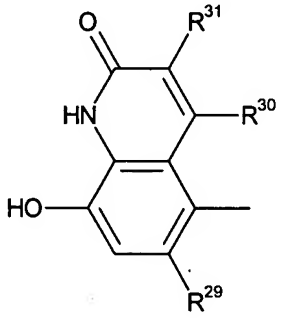
p is zero when Y is nitrogen or 1 when Y is carbon;

q and r are each zero or 1, the sum of q+r is 1 or 2; and

the carbon atom marked with an asterisk* has the R or S configuration, or a mixture thereof, when R^1 is hydroxy or alkoxy.

18.(Cancelled)

19.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which Ar is a group of formula III:



III

in which R^{29}, R^{30} and R^{31} are each independently hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl;

R^1 is hydroxyl;

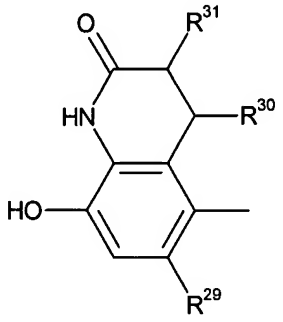
R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen;

R^4 and R^7 are identical and are each hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy; and

either R^5 and R^6 are identical and are each hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, or R^5 and R^6 together denote -$(CH_2)_4$- or -$O(CH_2)_2O$-.

20.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 19, in which the carbon atom in formula I marked with an asterisk * has the R configuration.

21.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which Ar is a group of formula



IIIa

where R^{29}, R^{30} and R^{31} are each independently hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

22.(Cancelled)

23.(Cancelled)

24.(Cancelled)

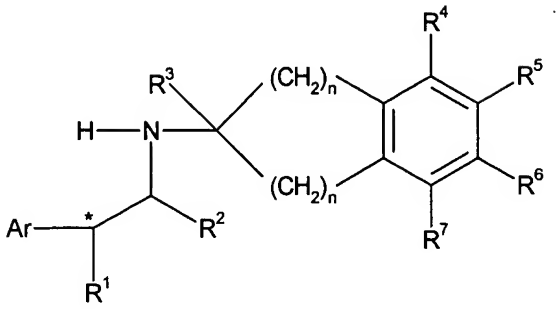
25.(Cancelled)

26.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each hydrogen or are such that the benzene ring to which they are attached is symmetrically substituted.

27.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 19, in which Ar is a group of formula III, R^1 is hydroxy, R^2 and R^3 are hydrogen, R^4 and R^7 are identical and are each hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl or C_1-C_4-alkoxy, and either R^5 and R^6 are identical and are each hydrogen, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkoxy-C_1-C_4-alkyl, or R^5 and R^6 together denote -$(CH_2)_4$- or -$O(CH_2)_2O$-, in free or salt or solvate form.

28.(Previously presented) A compound according to claim 27, in which the carbon atom in formula I marked with an asterisk * has the R configuration.

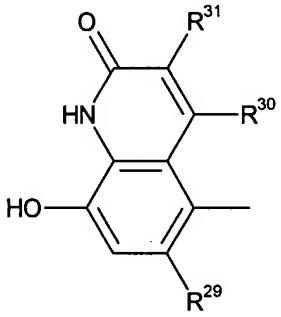
29.(Previously presented) A compound of formula



I

in free or salt or solvate form,

(A) wherein Ar is a group of formula



III

in which R^{29}, R^{30} and R^{31} are each H, R^1 is OH, R^2 and R^3 are each H and

(i) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each CH_3O- and R^5 and R^6 are each H; or

(ii) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 are each CH_3CH_2-; or

(iii) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 are each CH_3-; or

(iv) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each CH_3CH_2- and R^5 and R^6 are each H; or

(v) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 together denote -$(CH_2)_4$-; or

(vi) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 together denote -$O(CH_2)_2O$-; or

(vii) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 are each $CH_3(CH_2)_3$-; or

(viii) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 are each $CH_3(CH_2)_2$-; or

(ix) n is 2, R^4, R^5, R^6 and R^7 are each H; or

(x) n is 1, and R^4 and R^7 are each H and R^5 and R^6 are each CH_3OCH_2-; or

(B) which is a compound selected from

8-hydroxy-5-[1-hydroxy-2-(indan-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-1H-quinolin-2-one;

5-[2-(5,6-dimethoxy-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one;

5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-3-methyl-1H-quinolin-2-one;

5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-methoxymethoxy-6-methyl-1H-quinolin-2-one;

5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-6-methyl-1H-quinolin-2-one;

8-hydroxy-5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-3,4-dihydro-1H-quinolin- 2-one;

5-[(R)-2-(5,6-diethyl-2-methyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one;

(S)-5-[2-(5,6 -diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one-hydrochloride;

5-[(R)-1-hydroxy-2-(6,7,8,9-tetrahydro-5H-benzocyclohepten-7-ylamino)-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one hydrochloride;

(R)-5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one maleate;

(R)-5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one hydrochloride;

(R)-8-hydroxy-5-[(S)-1-hydroxy-2-(4,5,6,7-tetramethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-1H-quinolin-2-one;

8-hydroxy-5-[(R)-1-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-indan-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-1H-quinolin-2-one;

5-[2-(5,6-diethyl-indan-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one;

8-hydroxy-5-[(R)-1-hydroxy-2-(2-methyl-2,3,5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1H-cyclopenta[b]naphthalen-2-ylamino)-ethyl]-1H-quinolin-2-one; or

5-[(S)-2-(2,3,5,6,7,8-hexahydro-1H-cyclopenta[b]naphthalen-2-ylamino)-1-hydroxy-ethyl]-8-hydroxy-1H-quinolin-2-one.

30.(Cancelled)

31.(Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 17, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32.(Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 28, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

33.(Currently amended) A method for the treatment of a condition selected from chronic or acute urticaria, psoriasis, allergic conjunctivitis, actinitis, hay fever and mastocytosis ~~which is alleviated by activation of the β2-adrenoreceptor~~ which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 17.

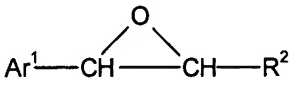
34.(Previously presented) A method for the treatment of an obstructive or inflammatory airways disease which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 17.

35.(Previously presented) A method for the treatment of obstructive or inflammatory airways disease which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 29.

36.(Previously presented) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula I in free or salt or solvate form comprising:

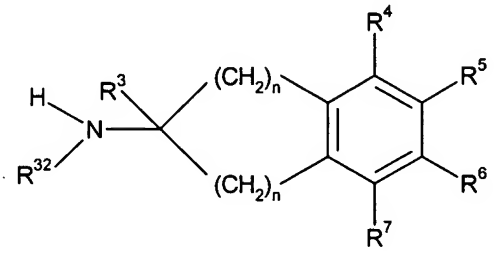
(a) for the preparation of a compound where R1 is hydroxy, either

(i) reacting a compound of formula



XVI

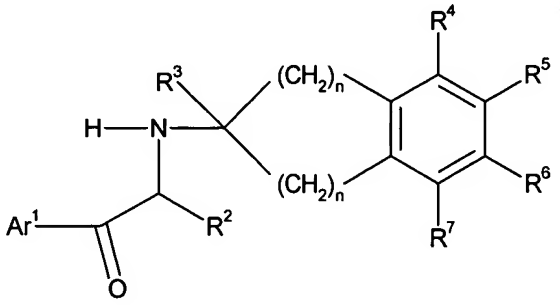
with a compound of formula



XVII

where Ar^1 is Ar as defined in claim 17 or a protected form thereof, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 and n are as defined in claim 17 and R^{32} is hydrogen or an amine-protective group, or

(ii) reducing a compound of formula



XVIII

where Ar^1 is Ar as defined in claim 17 or a protected form thereof, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6, R^7 are as defined in claim 17, to convert the indicated keto group into -CH(OH)-; or

(b) for the preparation of a compound where R^1 is hydrogen, reducing a corresponding compound of formula I where R^1 is hydroxy; or

(c) for the preparation of a compound of formula I where R^1 is alkoxy, either (i) O-alkylating a corresponding compound of formula I where R^1 is hydroxy or (ii) reacting a corresponding compound having a leaving moiety instead of R^1 with an alcohol of formula R^1H where R^1 is alkoxy;

and, optionally, converting a resultant compound of formula I in protected form into a corresponding compound in unprotected form;

and recovering the resultant compound of formula I in free or salt or solvate form.

37-40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which Ar is a group of formula II in which Y is carbon,

R^8 is $-NHR^{18}$ and $-NHR^{18}$ and R^9 together denote

a group of formula $-NH-CO-R^{23}-$ where R^{23} is an alkenylene group,

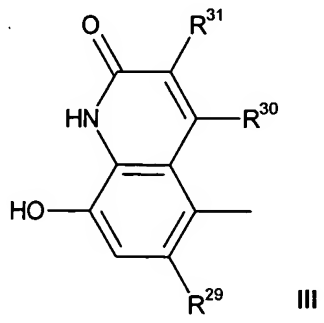
R^{10} is $-OR^{19}$, where R^{19} is as defined in claim 17,

X is alkyl,

p is 1, q is 1 and r is zero or 1.

42. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 29, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 17, in which Ar is a group of formula III



III

in which R^{29}, R^{30} and R^{31} are each independently hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl.

44. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 27, in which R^4 and R^7 are each hydrogen, and R^5 and R^6 are identical and are each C_1-C_4-alkyl.

45. (Previously presented) A compound according to claim 28, in which R^4 and R^7 are each hydrogen, and R^5 and R^6 are identical and are each C_1-C_4-alkyl.

46. (New) A method for the treatment of premature labour pain comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 17.